GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:239
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2005
LOK ADALATS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the States/UTs have not established permanent Lok Adalats;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to make available speedy, inexpensive and substantial justice tocommon man?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to n on-availability of enough funds from the State Governments for creation of infrastructural facilities such as provision for buildings/ furniture, creation of posts, payment of salary for the staff and other administrative expenses, the State Legal Services Authorities are experiencing difficulties to establish Permanent Lok Adalats.

(c) Legal Aid Schemes and Programmes have been evolved and are being implemented throughout the country to make justice available at door-step of common man. Free Legal Services have been extended to the weaker sections of the society such as, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children, handicapped, disabled workmen and persons in custody, under the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The free legal aid and advice and other services are provided to the aforesaid category of persons in respect of their cases right from the munsif court to Supreme. Court. Lok Adalats are being organized by State Legal Services Authorities throughout the country. These Lok Adalats have been set up for speedy disposal of the cases. National Legal Services Authority is also monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Legal Aid Schemes & Programmes in the country and is taking appropriate measures for spreading legal literacy & legal awareness amongst the common man, poor and the weaker sections of the society in particular, so as to strengthen the legal aid movement.